

Lesson 24

Words To Learn This Week

fierce
detest
sneer
scowl
encourage
consider
vermin
wail
symbol
authority
neutral
trifle

"Words are the physicians of a mind diseased."

—Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound*

1. **fierce** (fērs) savage; wild
 - a. Barry was so **fiercely** angry that he thrust* his hand through the glass.
 - b. One must take appropriate* precautions* when approaching* **fierce** dogs.
 - c. He took one look at his **fierce** opponent* and ran.
2. **detest** (di test') dislike very much; hate
 - a. The world **detests** people who aren't valiant.*
 - b. Wally was certain that his girlfriend's parents would **detest** him because he had been a delinquent.*
 - c. I **detest** Chinese food but I won't deprive* you of the chance to eat it.
3. **sneer** (snēr) show scorn or contempt by looks or words; a scornful look or remark
 - a. The journalists* were cautious* about **sneering** at the secretary of defense.
 - b. "Wipe that **sneer** off your face!" the dean told the delinquent.*
 - c. When offered a dime as a tip, the taxi driver **sneered** at his rider.
4. **scowl** (skoul) look angry by lowering the eyebrows; frown
 - a. Laverne **scowled** at her mother when she was prohibited* from going out.
 - b. I dread* seeing my father **scowl** when he gets my report card.
 - c. Because of a defect* in her vision,* it always appeared that Polly was **scowling**.
5. **encourage** (en kər' ij) give courage to; increase the confidence of
 - a. We **encouraged** the coach to devise* a plan for beating Jefferson High.
 - b. Some unstable* persons need to be **encouraged** to find a vocation.*
 - c. A valiant* person rarely* needs to be **encouraged**.
6. **consider** (kən sid' ə) think about in order to decide
 - a. Jon **considered** whether a comprehensive* report was necessary.
 - b. Do you **consider** that dress to be a bargain at the wholesale* price?
 - c. The wrestler was always **considered** to be the underdog* in every match.
7. **vermin** (ver' mən) small animals that are troublesome or destructive; fleas, bedbugs, lice, rats, and mice are vermin
 - a. One should try to eliminate* all **vermin** from his or her house.
 - b. Some reptiles* eat **vermin** as their food.
 - c. Although **vermin** are not always visible,* they probably inhabit* every house in the city.
8. **wail** (wāl) cry loud and long because of grief or pain
 - a. When tragedy* struck, the old people began to **wail**.
 - b. In some countries the women are expected to **wail** loudly after their husbands die.
 - c. When the Yankees lost the World Series, there was much **wailing** in New York.
9. **symbol** (sim' bəl) something that stands for or represents something else
 - a. The statue outside the court building is considered* a **symbol** of justice.*
 - b. **Symbols** for God are prohibited* in the Jewish religion.
 - c. An olive branch is a **symbol** of peace.
10. **authority** (ə thōr' ə tē) the right to command or enforce obedience; power delegated to another; an author or volume that may be appealed to in support of an action or belief
 - a. No one should have the **authority** to dictate our career choice.
 - b. Today a monarch* does not have the **authority** he once enjoyed.
 - c. The Supreme Court is entrusted with the **authority** to interpret our Constitution.

11. **neutral** (nōō' trəl) on neither side of a quarrel or war
 - a. It is logical* to remain **neutral** in a violent* argument between spouses.*
 - b. Switzerland was a **neutral** country in World War II.
 - c. Adolph did not reject* the idea but remained **neutral** about it.
12. **trifle** (trī' fəl) a small amount; little bit; something of little value
 - a. I ate a **trifle** for dinner rather than a vast* meal.
 - b. Walter spends only a **trifle** of his time in studying French.
 - c. At our meetings Alex always raises **trifling** objections to any new plan.

Read the following passage to see how the new words are used in it.

Punishment for Drug Abuse

A recent* attempt by New Jersey's attorney general to lessen the penalties* for use of marijuana has caused **fierce** arguments around the country. Those who **detest** the drug users **sneer** and **scowl** at the light treatment of offenders. They reject* the attorney general's recommendation as lacking a morsel* of sense, claiming it would only **encourage** more drug abuse. They **consider** the drug addict much like **vermin** that must be stamped out.

Such citizens continually **wail** for stiffer penalties. Those in favor of a milder approach* to the drug problem point to the poor results achieved by prison terms. They feel addicts* should be given medical help. Also, in enforcing harsh* drug laws, police tend to be viewed as a **symbol** of unwelcome **authority**. The problem demands a solution. We cannot remain **neutral** or unconcerned, nor can we afford to muddle through with ineffective measures, for this is not a **trifling** matter.

Which of the words studied in this lesson is suggested by the picture?

